



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

LAUREN DESROCHER
CHAIRMAN

RACHEL DEARBORN
VICE CHAIRMAN

VALERIE AMSEL
PAM MCCORMICK
ERIN STAVENS
LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM
LINDA ANDERSON
JUDI MANFRE
ANN MCLAUGHLIN

AD HOC ELLINGTON
TRAILS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2019
Town Hall Meeting Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam McCormick, Lauren Desrocher, Valerie Amsel, Judi Manfre, Ann McLaughlin, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Rachel Dearborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erin Stavens, Cynthia van Zelm, Linda Anderson

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Tom Palshaw

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Desrocher called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. CITIZENS FORUM

No citizens came forward.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (MCCORMICK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 6, 2019 MEETING MINUTES.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Power Equipment Training

Tom Palshaw reported that Tim Webb, Director of Public Works, has created a PowerPoint training course for those individuals who wish to be certified to operate power equipment on the trails. He will contact Mr. Webb for a list of dates and times to review this training presentation.

B. Storm Damage

Mr. Palshaw shared that the Hockanum River Committee (HRC) has completed their storm cleanup and will be working through the winter season only when weather permits. The HRC has completed their trail blazing, utilizing yellow blazes.

Vice Chairman Dearborn has been in contact with Emily Boone, steward for the Kimball Forest property; Ms. Boone has been unable to assess the trail following the late autumn wind storms.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020 Meeting Schedule

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (DEARBORN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE [ATTACHED].

B. Other

Vice Chairman Dearborn brought up the idea of holding a New Year's Day hike, but the Committee agreed that there currently isn't a property that would support parking for a potentially high turnout, based on attendance of similar local events. There are enough events available in neighboring communities that a Town event isn't necessary.

VI. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Treasurer

Lois Timms-Ferrara has created an account for the Committee at Star Hardware. Accounts at Kelly-Fradet and Agway with continue to be shared with Public Works.

B. Planning & Development

Chairman Desrocher and Bruce Dinnie recently visited the Moser property and have identified the following needs: multiple bridges/platforms, one or two benches, possible bird houses and a kiosk. David Bidwell, who created the original trail system, knows of a few high school students looking to complete community service hours. Vice Chairman Dearborn will look into arranging a scrap pick-up for the many oil drums on the trail and will present the idea of removing them to a holding area off of Stein Road as a possible project for students now or in the future.

Mr. Dinnie has been in contact with the State of Connecticut to discuss permission to link the Kimball Forest Trail to the Connecticut Forest and Parks' Blue Blazed Shenipsit Trail on Hopkins Road. This will require crossing over State-owned land. The spur connector would pass a sizable stone foundation and the Ellington/Tolland Town Line Monument. Mr. Dinnie is also seeking contact with the State Historian to have a look at this and a few other historic sites on Town property, which would include a possible assessment of the ruins on the Arens Property. That information would be used to assist the Conservation Commission in a presentation to the Board of Selectmen to plead the case of pursuing the purchase of that land for trails, an in-town access point to the Soapstone Mountain Trail and for historic preservation of the Wadsworth home.

Mr. Dinnie and Vice Chairman Dearborn suggest creating a social media post inviting Eagle Scouts to approach the Committee with proposed projects at the monthly public meetings, as they do not seem interested in projects that fill the needs which we have put forward recently.

C. Maintenance

Valerie Amsel suggested that the Committee continue discussion regarding an appropriate seasonal maintenance schedule for each property.

Vice Chairman Dearborn pointed out that there were numerous inquiries about cleanup projects around Earth Day and that multiple maintenance events should be planned around that time, to be prepared for similar inquiries in 2020.

Ms. Amsel will reach out to local scouting groups to gauge interest; Judi Manfre will discuss this with the Decide to Be Kind group, as well.

The Batz property needs a new steward for 2020; the Committee agreed that having multiple stewards or points of contact for each property would be ideal. Mr. Dinnie pointed out that stewards must be required to assess properties within 48 hours of major weather events so that immediate safety action can be taken, as in the case of the Metcalf property. Vice Chairman Dearborn suggested that stewards be recruited at public events as opposed to through social media.

D. Community Outreach

There was no report.

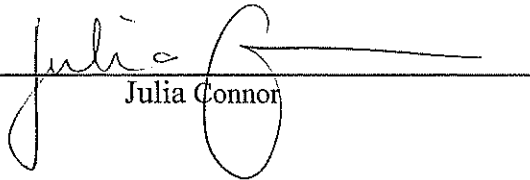
E. Trail of Treats

There was no report.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (DEARBORN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 6:49 PM.

Submitted by


Julia Connor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786



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www.ellington-ct.gov

2020 Meeting Schedule

Meetings will take place on the following Wednesdays in the
Town Hall Meeting Hall at 6:00 pm

January 8

February 5

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3

July 1

August 5

September 2

October 7

November 4

December 2